

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks which follow.

Claim 2 has been canceled.

New claims 17-24 have been added.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 3 and 5-24 are now pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 2-3, 7-11, and 14-16 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,992,514 (hereafter "Sugimoto et al."). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 10 recites a heat exchanger unit that comprises at least one heat exchanger, said heat exchanger comprising tubes; heat-transfer fins; and at least one side part, said side part comprising a baseplate and at least one reinforcing fin, wherein at least one reinforcing fin comprises a cut out portion of the baseplate which is attached to the base plate along a single edge, which is bent along an edge at an angle out of a plane of the baseplate, and which creates an aperture in the baseplate, wherein the bent edge of the reinforcing part extends along a longitudinal edge of the side part. Claims 7-9, 11, and 14-16 depend upon claim 10.

Sugimoto et al. discloses a heat exchanger 1 that includes side plates 23 and 33. See Sugimoto et al. at col. 5, lines 41-44. A connecting portion 4 connects the side plate 23 and 33. See Sugimoto et al. at col. 5, lines 47-50, and Figure 1. Sugimoto et al. discloses that the connecting portion 4 is formed by connecting a Z-shaped bent portion 41 of the side plate 23

and a Z-shaped bent portion 42 of the side plate 33. See Sugimoto et al. at col. 5, lines 50-52. Neither side plate 23, 33 of Sugimoto et al. comprises at least one reinforcing fin “wherein at least one reinforcing fin comprises a cut out portion of the baseplate which is attached to the base plate along a single edge, which is bent along an edge at an angle out of a plane of the baseplate, and which creates an aperture in the baseplate.” Based upon the teachings of Sugimoto et al., one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that Sugimoto et al. discloses two side plates 23, 33 that are connected, not a single side plate. Therefore, one of ordinary skill would understand that Sugimoto et al. fails to disclose all of the features of claim 10. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 3 has been amended to depend upon new claim 17. Claim 17 recites a heat exchanger unit that comprises at least one heat exchanger, said heat exchanger comprising tubes, heat-transfer fins, and at least one side part, said side part comprising a baseplate, and at least one reinforcing fin, wherein at least one reinforcing fin comprises a cut out portion of the baseplate and is attached to the baseplate, wherein the at least one reinforcing fin is bent along an edge at an angle out of a plane of the baseplate to create an aperture, wherein the bent edge of the reinforcing part extends along substantially a full length of an edge of the side part. New claims 18-23 further depend upon claim 17.

As discussed above, Sugimoto et al. fails to disclose a heat exchanger unit comprising at least one side part “said side part comprising a baseplate, and at least one reinforcing fin, wherein at least one reinforcing fin comprises a cut out portion of the baseplate and is attached to the baseplate, wherein the at least one reinforcing fin is bent along an edge at an angle out of a plane of the baseplate to create an aperture.” Therefore, Sugimoto et al. fails to disclose all of the features of new claim 17.

New claim 24 recites a heat exchanger unit that comprises at least one heat exchanger, said heat exchanger comprising tubes, heat-transfer fins, and at least one side part, said side part comprising a baseplate, and at least one reinforcing fin, wherein at least one reinforcing fin comprises a cut out portion of the baseplate and is attached to the baseplate, wherein the at least one reinforcing fin is bent along an edge at an angle out of a plane of the baseplate to create an aperture, wherein the at least one reinforcing fin comprises an opening therethrough.

Sugimoto et al. fails to disclose a heat exchanger unit comprising at least one side part “said side part comprising a baseplate, and at least one reinforcing fin, wherein at least one reinforcing fin comprises a cut out portion of the baseplate and is attached to the baseplate, wherein the at least one reinforcing fin is bent along an edge at an angle out of a plane of the baseplate to create an aperture.” Therefore, Sugimoto et al. fails to disclose all of the features of new claim 24.

Claims 2-4, 9-11, 15, and 16 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,076,353 (hereafter “Hausmann”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 9, 11, 15, and 16 depend upon claim 10. Hausmann discloses a heat exchanger that includes fins 12, as shown in Figure 2. See Hausmann at col. 6, lines 47-50. Hausmann discloses that fins 38 can include perforations or interruptions 34, 36 to increase heat transfer. See Hausmann at col. 9, lines 8-61. Hausmann does not disclose a heat exchanger unit that comprises “at least one side part, said side part comprising a baseplate and at least one reinforcing fin” because the teachings of Hausmann regard fins, not side parts. Therefore, Hausmann fails to disclose all of the features of claim 10. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that claims 3 and 17-24 are allowable over Hausmann for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claims 3, 9-12, and 14-16 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,931,221 (hereafter “Inoue et al.”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 9, 11, 12, and 14-16 depend upon claim 10. Inoue et al. discloses a heat exchanger 101 that includes an end plate 115 with a retaining portion 120. See Inoue et al. at col. 14, lines 16-24. However, as shown in Figure 19 of Inoue et al., the bent edges of the retaining portion 120 do not extend along a longitudinal edge of the end plate 115. Inoue et al. fails to disclose a heat exchanger that comprises “at least one side part, said side part comprising a baseplate and at least one reinforcing fin...wherein the bent edge of the reinforcing part extends along a longitudinal edge of the side part.” Therefore, Inoue et al.

fails to disclose all of the features of claim 10. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 3 depends upon claim 17. Applicants submit that Inoue et al. fails to disclose a heat exchanger unit that comprises “at least one side part, said side part comprising a baseplate, and at least one reinforcing fin, wherein at least one reinforcing fin comprises a cut out portion of the baseplate and is attached to the baseplate, wherein the at least one reinforcing fin is bent along an edge at an angle out of a plane of the baseplate to create an aperture, wherein the bent edge of the reinforcing part extends along substantially a full length of an edge of the side part.” Inoue et al. fails to disclose that a bent edge of the retaining part 120 extends along substantially a full length of an edge of the end plate 115. Therefore, Inoue et al. fails to disclose all of the features of claim 17.

Applicants submit that claim 24 is allowable over Inoue et al. because Inoue et al. fails to disclose a heat exchanger unit that comprises “at least one side part, said side part comprising a baseplate, and at least one reinforcing fin, wherein at least one reinforcing fin comprises a cut out portion of the baseplate and is attached to the baseplate, wherein the at least one reinforcing fin is bent along an edge at an angle out of a plane of the baseplate to create an aperture, wherein the at least one reinforcing fin comprises an opening therethrough.” Inoue et al. fails to disclose that the retaining part 120 comprises an opening therethrough. Therefore, Inoue et al. fails to disclose all of the features of claim 24.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claim 6 and the indication that claims 5 and 13 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 5 and 13 have been amended to be placed in independent form.

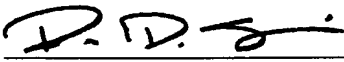
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. An early notice to this effect is

earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 10/30/06
FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5540
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By 
Richard L. Schwaab
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 25,479

Paul D. Strain
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 47,369

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.